

## H. R. 351.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

JANUARY 6, 1851.

Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MATTESON gave notice of his intention to move the following as a substitute for the bill of the House, No. 351, "to reduce and modify the rates of postage in the United States"

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Represen-*  
2   *tatives of the United States of America in Congress*  
3   *assembled,* That letters carried in the mail of the United  
4 States, shall be charged with postage as follows :

5       Upon each letter not weighing over one half ounce,  
6 two and a half cents ; and for each additional half ounce or  
7 fraction of half an ounce, two and a half cents, whenever the  
8 postage upon such letters shall be pre-paid. There shall  
9 be charged upon each unpaid letter weighing not more than  
10 half an ounce, five cents ; and upon each additional half  
11 ounce or fraction of half an ounce so unpaid, the sum of  
12 five cents

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* There shall be  
2 charged upon each newspaper, pamphlet, periodical, maga-  
3 zine, book, and every other description of printed matter,

4 which shall be unconnected with any manuscript or writ-  
5 ten matter, and which it may be lawful to transmit through  
6 the mail, of no greater weight than two ounces, one cent;  
7 and for each additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce, one  
3 cent. Bound books, not weighing over thirty ounces, shall  
9 be deemed mailable matter under the provisions of this  
10 section: *Provided*, That all newspapers may be trans-  
11 mitted through the mail by the editors or publishers thereof,  
12 to all subscribers within forty miles of the town or other  
13 place in which the paper is or may be printed free of any  
14 charge for postage whatever, except the postmaster deliv-  
15 ering such papers may, under such regulations as shall be  
16 prescribed by the Postmaster General, as and for a com-  
17 pensation for the services of such postmaster, charge and re-  
18 ceive in advance from each and every subscriber, yearly or  
19 for fractions of a year, the following sums: on a paper  
20 printed once in each week, ten cents; semi-weekly, twenty  
21 cents; tri-weekly, thirty cents; and daily, fifty cents.

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the direc-  
2 tors of the Mint in the United States are authorized and  
3 required to coin pieces of the value of two-and-a-half cents  
4 or quarter dimes, composed of three parts silver and one  
5 part alloy, which shall be a lawful tender for all debts of  
6 thirty dollars or under, due to the United States, and to  
7 individuals, persons, and corporations.

1        SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* It shall be the  
2 duty of the Postmaster General to provide and furnish to  
3 all deputy postmasters, and other persons applying and  
4 paying therefor, suitable stamps of the denomination of  
5 two-and-a-half cents to facilitate the prepayment of the  
6 postage provided for in this act. And to any person who  
7 shall desire to purchase of the Postmaster General, or of  
8 any deputy postmaster, at any one time, an amount of  
9 stamps to the value of fifty dollars or upwards, such stamps  
10 shall be furnished at a discount of ten per cent. upon their  
11 par value. All deputy postmasters who shall receive at  
12 any one time stamps to the amount of fifty dollars, shall be  
13 allowed a deduction of ten per cent. upon the par value.

1        SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That there is  
2 hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury  
3 not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$1,500,000, to sup-  
4 ply any deficiency that may arise in the Post Office De-  
5 partment.

1        SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* There shall be  
2 charged upon all letters transported in the mails from any  
3 of the Atlantic ports in the United States to any of the  
4 ports in the United States upon the Pacific, or from any  
5 of the ports in the United States upon the Pacific to any  
6 of the Atlantic ports in the United States, four times the  
7 usual rates; and upon all newspapers, periodicals, and

8 magazines, books, or other printed matter herein provided  
9 for, three times the usual rates.

1       SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That lists of let-  
2 ters remaining uncalled for in any post office, for the space  
3 of two weeks, in any city, town, or village, where a news-  
4 paper shall be printed, shall hereafter be published once  
5 only in a newspaper, which being issued as frequently as  
6 any other, shall have the largest circulation within the  
7 range of delivery of said office, to be decided by the Post-  
8 master General, under such regulations as shall be pre-  
9 scribed by him, at a charge not exceeding two-and-a-half  
10 cents on each letter called for. And the Postmaster at  
11 such office is hereby directed to post in a conspicuous  
12 place in his office a copy of such list on the day or day  
13 after the publication thereof: *Provided, however*, if the  
14 publisher of any paper herein specified shall refuse to  
15 publish the list of letters as provided in this section, the  
16 postmaster shall designate some other paper in which such  
17 list shall be published; and such publisher, so refusing,  
18 shall be deprived of all the benefits of this act, and the free  
19 exchange now provided by law.

1       SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts or  
2 parts of acts inconsistent with this act be, and the same  
3 are hereby, repealed.